



# Welcome

Grounded in Christ

First Sunday of Epiphany

January 8, 2023



**ST. JOHN'S**

Lutheran Church

Grounded • Growing • Branching

## **Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church**

Good morning and a blessed welcome to you! It truly is an honor to have you worshipping with us this morning and it is our prayer that you find great comfort and peace in Jesus' Word of love, mercy, and forgiveness! If you are visiting with us today, please take one of the visitor gift bags from the visitors' center.

At St. John's we are pleased to offer a variety of service formats on Sunday morning. In our 8:30 a.m. traditional service we offer familiar hymns and rich, traditional worship forms in a meaningful and inspirational setting. Our 11:00 a.m. contemporary service includes the same message as our 8:30 a.m. service but in an informal style, enhanced with contemporary music. We encourage you to try both worship styles! Thank you for worshipping with us; we would love to have you join us again!

*(If you need any assistance or need a hearing aid device, please see one of the ushers.)*

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### **Contact Us**

**2727 North Union Boulevard, Decatur, IL 62526**

**Phone: (217) 875-3656; website: [www.stjohnsdecatur.com](http://www.stjohnsdecatur.com)**

**Church office hours: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday**

**Members of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod & Lutheran School Association**



### **St. John's Staff**

**Rev. Adam Ray**, Lead Pastor  
[pastoradam@stjohnsdecatur.com](mailto:pastoradam@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Rev. Aaron Bird**, Assoc. Pastor  
[pastoraaron@stjohnsdecatur.com](mailto:pastoraaron@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Malinda Standerfer**, Dir. of Christian Ed  
[dcemalinda@stjohnsdecatur.com](mailto:dcemalinda@stjohnsdecatur.com)

**Ted Hesse**, Worship Music Director

**Jessie Denning**, A/V Coordinator

**Georgia Newman**, Office Manager  
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**Jeff Miller**, Custodia

### **LSA Faculty & Staff – Members of St. John's Lutheran Church**

**Ciara Collins**

**Anne Jesgarz**

**Angela Martinek**

**Jeff Salefski**

**Brenda Salogga**

**Melissa Saurmann**

**Stephanie Wilkerson**

# FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

JANUARY 8, 2023

8:30 A.M.

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC AND A TIME FOR PRAYER

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

## WELCOME/GREETING

## OPENING HYMN

*My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

LSB 575

## INVOCATION

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION (*John 8:34; Galatians 3:23; 5:1*)

L: Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches.

**C: If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."**

L: In Christ Jesus, we have been made children of God through faith,

**C: For all who are baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ.**

L: In Christ we receive our identity, hope, and life.

**C: I am grounded in Christ.**

L: Rooted in the identity that Jesus gives to us by His own victorious death and resurrection, we can confidently come to our God and surrender before Him everything in our lives in need of His grace and mercy.

### *Silent Confession*

L: Merciful Father,

**C: We confess that we are not always grounded in our identity as Your children. We have been swayed by the ways of this world and caught up in our own plans instead of Your plans. We have**

**failed to love You, and we have failed to love our neighbors in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We deserve to be cut off from You. Yet we ask that of your infinite mercy that you would strengthen and restore us. Grant us forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son. Establish us again as a people grounded in the love of Christ.**

L: Our God is able to do far more than we could ever ask or even imagine. He has established you and rooted you in the identity of His only Son Jesus by His death and resurrection. By this and upon your confession, I announce to you this day that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen. We are grounded in Christ, growing in faith, and branching to others.**

## **SALUTATION**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

## **LISTENING TO GOD SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS WORD**

*Old Testament*

*Jeremiah 17:5-10 (ESV)*

<sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. <sup>6</sup>He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. <sup>7</sup>"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. <sup>8</sup>He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit." <sup>9</sup>The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? <sup>10</sup>"I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

L: This is the Word of our Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*New Testament*

*Titus 3:3–7 (ESV)*

<sup>3</sup>For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. <sup>4</sup>But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

L: This is the Word of our Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**COMMON ALLELUIA AND VERSE**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*John 15:1–17 (ESV)*

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord. (sung)**

<sup>1</sup> "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. <sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide

in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup>"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup>These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.** (*sung*)

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*DCE Malinda Standerfer*

## **SERMON HYMN**

*I Know My Faith Is Founded*

*LSB 587*

## **SERMON**

*"Grounded in Christ"*

*Titus 3:3-7 & John 15:1-17*

*Pastor Aaron Bird*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

## **OFFERING**

*Tithes and gifts may be placed in the collection plate or given at  
[www.stjohnsdecatour.com/giving](http://www.stjohnsdecatour.com/giving).*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*The Leader will conclude every prayer with: "Lord, in Your mercy"*

**People respond with: "hear our prayer"**

## LORD'S PRAYER

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BENEDICTION

L: The seed of faith has been planted and has taken root.

**C: We are grounded in Christ.**

L: As we gather in word and worship, we water that seed.

**C: We are growing in faith.**

L: Faith produces fruit as we love and serve our neighbor.

**C: We are branching to others.**

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*The Church's One Foundation*

*LSB 644*

### **Last Week's Giving**

Weekly Needed .....	\$12,403.85
General Fund .....	\$12,220.00
Online Giving .....	\$1,699.20
Total .....	\$13,919.20

### **Last Week's Attendance**

8:30 a.m. ....	94
11:00 a.m. ....	46
Total .....	140
Wednesday Adult Bible Study .....	15

**FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**

**JANUARY 8, 2023**

**11:00 A.M.**

**OPENING SONGS**

*There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do*  
*Good Grace*

**WELCOME & GREETING**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

**OFFERING**

*I Speak Jesus*

**SCRIPTURE READING**

***Titus 3:3-7 & John 15:1-17***

**SERMON**

*"Grounded in Christ"*  
*Titus 3:3-7 & John 15:1-17*  
*Pastor Aaron Bird*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**PRAYERS**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG**

*In Christ Alone*

## Sunday Servants

Preacher.....	Pastor Aaron Bird
Worship Leader.....	Pastor Adam Ray
Reader.....	Jan Bryant Lay
Minister.....	8:30 – Steve Craycroft 11:00 – Mark Langston
Organist.....	Ted Hesse
Ushers.....	8:30 –Gary Schwartzle/Rick Laskowski 11:00 – Debbie Strong/Pam Saurmann
Computer.....	8:30 – Debbie Craycroft 11:00 – Katie Salogga
Live Stream.....	11:00 – Brandon Patzwitz
Camera.....	11:00 – Brandon Patzwitz
Sound.....	8:30 – Jessie Denning 11:00 – Katie Salogga

## Praise Team

Vocals.....	Kelli Langston, Amanda Ray, Ted Hesse
Acoustic Guitar.....	Wendy Salefski, Malinda Standerfer
Piano.....	Ted Hesse

**OUR MISSION** We are restored to God through the death and resurrection of Jesus. As a family of Christians, we are dedicated to the love and forgiveness of Christ as we reach out, preach and teach the truth of God’s Word to each other, our community and the world.

**IN NEED OF PRAYER:** If you would like to be added to the prayer list or the prayer chain, please contact the church office. Please call the prayer chain with an update of your prayer request.

**In the Military:** Kaleb Blakeman, Laura Byers, Bryon Chaney, Kimberly Chaney, Kristel Chaney, Travis Chaney, Dan Cheney, Tristin Comer, Randy Edwards, Caleb Goodson, Austin Highcock, Braden Highcock, Destiny Little, Noah Lung, Nathan Lung, Andrew Nailer, Jared Pinney, Caitlin Salefski, Tyler Salefski, Gavin Stanzione, Jacob Thornell

## Congregation News

**New Sermon Series on Grounded-Growing-Branching** starting this Sunday through January 22nd.

**Adult Sunday School Hour** – As St. John's launches this new year with a sermon series focusing on our vision of being Grounded in Christ, Growing in Faith, and Branching to Others, please join us in the Fellowship Hall January 8th, 15th, and 22nd at 9:45 a.m. for some food, fellowship, and indepth discussion unpacking these themes and how we hope them to shape the future of our ministry at St. John's.

**Ladies Friendship Circle:** Our next Friendship Circle meeting will be a soup luncheon at 1:00 on Tues., Jan. 17th. Your officers are preparing five different soups, and you are invited to sample any or all of them. Just bring an appetite then stick around to play bingo after eating. Bring a friend! All women are invited. If you would like to help us create a winter treat for the homebound members of St. John's, come early (at 12:30) on the 17th. Please note that Friendship Circle meetings will be postponed if the weather is bad. An email will be sent to members who have an email address on file. If you do not use email, we will try to call regular attendees. When in doubt, call the church office at 875-3656.

**Youth Ski Trip Retreat:** The youth are going on a Ski Trip Retreat next weekend (Jan. 13-16). Some youth would like to go but cannot due to funding. If you would like to help by donating toward this, please contact Malinda.

**Little Theatre Trip:** We have scheduled another outing to the Little Theatre on Wednesday, March 8th for a 2pm performance. The show is "Sh-Boom" a 60's doo-wop musical. If you would be interested, please inform the church office or Jerry Pelz. The tickets are \$40.00, if there are twenty people interested. If there are fewer than twenty people, the cost would be more. Please respond by January 23rd so tickets may be ordered and best seats reserved.

**Offering Envelopes** are available in your mailbox. If you did not receive envelopes, please contact the church office.

**West Entry Doors** are being monitored from 8:00 until 8:35 a.m. on Sunday mornings. (The door between the Rock Room and the Education Wing.) Unless you are dropped off at the sanctuary door, the west entrance is the shortest distance to enter the building.

**LWML:** We will meet January 29th around noon, after late service, for a light meal, please bring free will donation, and learn how to partner with Thrivent, through Thrivent Action Teams and Choice Dollars, to bless and serve others. Please text Brenda Salogga at 217-429-9183 so we can ensure enough food. Childcare will be provided for those under 4 if needed, and an activity focused on seeing people's needs and taking care of them for 4 and up (older children may decide to do the activity or hear about how to partner with Thrivent). Please include ages of children when you RSVP so we can plan accordingly. Mite boxes will be collected the first Sunday of each month. LWML welcomes women and girls of all ages to their meetings. LWML National Convention is June 22-25, 2023 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

**Stewardship Seeds:** *Matthew 3:15 – “But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’”* God sent His Son into the world to fulfill all righteousness for us, to do what we could not do. Here, Jesus plunges Himself into our sins and soaks them up in His Baptism, so that in our Baptism we might be cleansed and renewed. The whole of Jesus' life, everything He did and said, was one great offering to the Father in our stead to fulfill all righteousness for us. All our offerings back to our Lord are in thanksgiving for this one great, true offering.

# THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

8:30 A.M..... TRADITIONAL SERVICE  
9:45 A.M..... EDUCATION HOUR  
11:00 A.M..... CONTEMPORARY SERVICE  
4-5:30 P.M.....CONFIRMATION (FH)  
5:30-6 P.M. ....SHARED DINNER  
6-7 P.M. ....JR. HIGH YOUTH

## MONDAY, JANUARY 9

6:30 P.M. ....PROPERTIES MEETING (ROCK)  
6:30 P.M..... BOY SCOUTS (FH)

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

1:00 P.M..... STAFF MEETING  
6:30 P.M..... LAY MINISTRY (FH)

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

10:00 A.M..... ADULT BIBLE STUDY (FH)

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

5:30 P.M..... TOPS  
7:00 P.M..... WORSHIP PRACTICE

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

SR. HIGH YOUTH SKI TRIP IN WISCONSIN

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

10 A.M. - 4 P.M. ....FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

8:30 A.M..... TRADITIONAL SERVICE  
9:45 A.M..... EDUCATION HOUR  
11:00 A.M..... CONTEMPORARY SERVICE  
6:00-8:00 P.M..... SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUPS